



CHESHIRE R.F.U. JUNIOR CUP & PLATE COMPETITIONS

COMPETITION RULES

Issue #7 September 2008



1 Competition Entry and Administration

- a) Entry is available to all clubs who are members of the Cheshire R.F.U. and have submitted a completed entry form (available from the Cheshire RFU website) and paid the due entry fee no later than the 30th September of the season in which the competitions are being played.
- b) If a club has a large enough squad at a particular age group they may enter more than 1 team in that age group along with the additional entry fee. In line with Rule 2d where a club has entered two teams a player may only play for one side in the competition and this will be monitored via the Match results Form.
- c) The competitions shall be on a knockout basis and the draws shall be made by the Mini & Junior Competitions Committee and published on the Cheshire RFU website.
- d) The dates for all rounds shall ultimately be decided by the Mini & Junior Competitions Committee, in line with the Structured Season and will be published on the Cheshire RFU website.
- e) **Ties must be played on or before the published dates.**
- f) Clubs must communicate with each other to agree the most suitable date ensuring every effort is made to play the game within the published dates. Any issues with resolving match dates must be escalated to Cheshire Competitions Committee.
- g) It is the host's club responsibility to ensure any issues with playing the game by the published dates are communicated to the Competitions Committee.
- h) Any games that are not played by the published dates and without prior notification or agreement with the Competitions Committee will be conceded by the host club.
- i) Under 13-16 games should kick-off at 11:00.



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- j) Under 17 games should kick-off at 12:30
- k) Under 19 games should kick-off at 14:00
- l) A Match Results Form (available from the Cheshire RFU website) with the names of players plus replacements with their date of birth must be made available to the referee prior to the playing of each game. Proof of age and club membership must be made available on request to the Mini & Junior Competitions Committee. Following the match, the Match Results Form must be countersigned by the referee who must also note any Red or Yellow cards against the player's names. The winning team are responsible for the submission of the form and emailing the result to the Mini & Junior Competitions Committee. **Email results to be submitted within 48 hours of the tie and Match results Forms within 7 days.**
- m) The first drawn club in each tie (other than the final) shall have the choice of ground.
- n) The selection of venues and the appointment of referees for the finals shall be the responsibility of the Mini & Junior Competitions Committee.
- o) **Any disputes or match complaints must be made in writing within 48 hours of the event to the Competition Organiser and can only be made by the coach or manager of the affected team. The Competition Organiser and other nominated members of the Competitions Committee will be the main arbiters in these situations. Any club has the option to appeal to the relevant Cheshire Disciplinary Panel. Any disputes lodged outside the 48-hour cut-off will not be considered as valid.**
- p) If a team concedes a Preliminary or First Round game they will not be allowed to participate in the Plate Competition.



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2 Player Eligibility and Registration

- a) Players must be under the respective age (U.13, U.14, U.15, U.16, U.17, U19) on the 31 August/1st September at the beginning of the season in which the competitions are being played. Please note the removal of rule allowing 4 over age players at Under 17.
- b) All players taking part in the competition must be registered with the Rugby Football Union and the coach or manager must ensure all RFU ID Cards are taken to each game. Cards can be requested and inspected as per the RFU guidelines. If an ID card for a player is not available due to him being a new player or a club transfer then suitable evidence of his eligibility must be provided and a note made on the Match Results Form.
- c) When requested if a player cannot fulfil rule 2.b they must not take part in any match until the relevant proof of age is supplied.
- d) All players must be BONA FIDE members of their club before the date of the 1st round. I.e. No players can be registered to play for a team by becoming a member of that club after the date of the 1st round.
- e) A player may only play for one club & one side in one age group in the competition in any one season.



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3 Player Numbers / Shortages / Replacements / Substitutions

- a) Up to 22 players may be nominated (15, plus 7 replacements). Only 22 Players (Max) may be changed ready to play, and they must all be listed on the Match Results Form **prior** to the game.
- b) Teams must make every attempt to ensure fixtures go ahead in spite of a shortage of players.
- c) All games must proceed with a minimum of 10 players per team.
- d) If a team is short, their opponents will have no more than a one-player advantage. E.g. turn up with 10 players and your opposition can only field 11.
- e) In these situations the teams with the greater numbers will be limited to **7** replacement players.
- f) If a team has less than 10 players, the game will be conceded by that team.
- g) Revolving substitutions are permitted, as per RFU Youth guidelines.
- h) Managers / Coaches must not allow or encourage players to play in a front row position if they do not have suitable training and experience.
- i) If, due to none availability of suitably trained players at the start of or during a match, the Referee has to order uncontested scrummages, the match will continue as a competitive match, save for the scrummages, which when uncontested will simply be a method of restarting the game.



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4 Law / Referees

- a) All games will be played in accordance with the IRB 'Laws of the Game' - Under 19 variations and refereed by members of a referee society wherever possible, or by a competent neutral referee who is not associated in any manner with either **team**.
- b) In the event of the Home Team not being able to provide a suitable referee the Visiting Team must be informed in good time and given the opportunity to supply the referee.
- c) If the host team's referee does not turn up for the game the chance to referee the match must go to the visiting team.
- d) In both occasions if the visiting team cannot find or do not have a suitable referee then the chance to referee the match goes back to the host team.
- e) Under all circumstances the referee must be qualified to referee that specific age group and if there are any doubts about the suitability of the referee the game should be postponed and rescheduled for the following weekend.
- f) If the point's differential in a game reaches 50 points or above the coach of the losing side has the option to ask the referee to terminate the game early as one sided games do little for rugby development for either winners or losers.



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- g) The duration of each game shall be as follows:-
- | | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| Under 13s | 25 minutes each way |
| Under 14s | 25 minutes each way |
| Under 15s | 30 minutes each way |
| Under 16s | 35 minutes each way |
| Under 17s | 35 minutes each way |
| Under 19s | 35 minutes each way |
- h) These timings refer to overall match time i.e. time must **NOT** be added for stoppages due to minor injuries and/or substitutions
- i) In the event that one team has begun the game with less than fifteen players as per Rule 3d then the playing time shall be adjusted as follows:-
- Matches where there are
- 10 or 11 players the playing time should be reduced by 10 minutes.
 - 12 or 13 players the playing time should be reduced by 5 minutes.
 - 14 players normal playing time applies.
- j) Drawn games shall be decided as follows: -
- (1) There will be no extra time in any match
 - (2) In all matches, the result shall be determined by: -
 - (i) The number of tries scored
 - (ii) The number of conversions
 - (iii) If both teams remain equal the away team shall go forward.
 - (iiii) In the final, the cup or plate shall be shared



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5 Discipline / Fair Play

- a) The County Competitions Committee expects an exemplary code of conduct from all Teams, Managers, Coaches, Players and Spectators before, during, and following matches.
- b) It is a Team's Managers and Coaches responsibility to ensure that their Spectators conduct themselves in line with the acknowledged 'Codes of Conduct', refraining from inciting players from the touchline, or abusing Referees before, during, and after games.
- c) Spectators must be outside the playing enclosure & back from the touchlines at all times, and must never enter the field of play.
- d) Replacements and coaches must be within a technical area where possible.
- e) Any Player, Coach or Spectator dismissed from the field in a Cup or Plate match will be subject to the RFU guideline on discipline.
- f) The Referee must submit a report to the relevant Cheshire Disciplinary Panel and the Club must convene a Disciplinary Committee to deal with the matter. The Club Disciplinary Committee must then submit a report of their actions and any sanction imposed to the relevant Disciplinary Panel for review/comment. Any sanction imposed must be in line with the RFU Disciplinary Regulations Youth Sin Bin Protocol.
- g) If the Referee finds it necessary to abandon a match for any reason other than weather conditions, then, irrespective of the number of minutes played the result of the match may be determined by the Competitions Committee.
- h) If a match is abandoned due to adverse weather conditions the result will stand as long as at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the regular playing time has elapsed.
- i) The Competitions Committee has a responsibility to it's Teams and Players, and will not hesitate to remove a Team or Club from the Competition for any occurrence of Player or Referee abuse by Spectators or Coaches, or other incidents bringing Junior Rugby into disrepute.